

Present

Rob McDonough - Chairman
Dave Lewis – Vice Chairman
Joe Redding - Member
Steve Johns – Member
Orville Johnson - Member

Mike Cobb - Member
Susan Good Geise - BoCC
Kevin Horne – Public Works
Kristi Ponozzo – City of Helena
Christian Lehnert – Weed Coordinator

Call to Order: -Rob McDonough called the meeting to order.

Introductions: - Those present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Agenda: Susan Good Geise motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Joe Redding and approved.

Minutes: Joe Redding motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Orville Johnson and approved.

Public Comment:

Action Items:

- Producer Cost Share Program – Christian Lehnert explained the producer cost share program. Discussion was had explaining the benefits of the program and answered questions from the board. Joe Redding made a motion to pursue the Producer Cost Share Program. Seconded by Steve Johns and approved.
- Little Prickly Pear Noxious Weed Grant application approval. Susan Good Geise made a motion to approve. Mike Cobb seconded and approved.

REPORTS:

Coordinator Report: Christian Lehnert –

- Shop and equipment are winterized and put away for the off season
- MWCA annual conference early registration is due by January 6th.
- Shop roof project starts tomorrow and will be done by Monday.
- Working on FY2021 budget
- Spray rate dollar adjustments Uses: Grant dollar matching
- Met with BLM and we will work on an Assistance Agreement for \$50,000 to be used on BLM properties..
- Working with Forest Service
- Meeting with Bob Cloninger – MDT right away spraying areas of concern 287, 434, 435 Green Meadow, Montana Ave, York Rd
- Working on Grants - \$7500 spec county grant reports are finished
- New Extension Agent – Mat Walter is the new Extension Agent. Mat has experience as an Extension Agent. He will be invited to the next weed board meeting. Good at PAT trainings and certified hay inspections.
- Mike Nordahl resigned from the weed board. The Lincoln weed board position is open.
- Rocky Mountain Weed Roundtable is applying for a grant.
- Board member training this evening

City of Helena – Kristi Ponozzo – Weed Summit meeting – Put together memo, open to feedback. There has been an influx of weed complaints within the city limits. Challenges – Last year was a big year for weeds, there was not the same structure as in the past without a person with expertise and weed knowledge. Struggled with open lands and the recommendation is to have at least a seasonal weed person for open lands. RFP proposal for trails work on open land adding weed work to that. Stronger partnership with the County. Using the county for resources. City management meeting next week.

BoCC – Susan Good Geise – Working on zoning – Public meetings regarding zoning will be Dec 18th & 19th. The county is seeing the effects of lack of zoning. Goal of commission is to have a decision made on zoning by Valentine's Day. Meeting with Ag groups, irrigators Ad Hoc group Novotny – Concerns expressed. The basis to run county elections as non-partisan passed. The first non-partisan election will be Commissioner Geise's seat. Update – Water present around Augusta area already, there have been six blizzards between September and November. Conversations about North Hills Rds. Budget preparations. Joint City/County meeting about Build Grants. This will be the last weed board meeting for Commissioner Geise. Commissioner McCormick will represent BoCC at the 2020 weed board meetings.

Public Works – Kevin Horne – The County has put in over 1500 man hours in the last couple of years in the Elk Creek area. Sending support out of Helena to help out the Augusta crews. Fighting 4 to 5 ft drifts with the high winds. Update on county roads: We cover about 3500 square miles of roads. Of that are, 560 miles of road that the department maintained. 60 of those roads are paved or chipped. There are 217 miles of roads within RID's. Roads are split into 10 districts. Chip seal cycle is every 7 years - money is allocated by the cycle. 14 snowplows 6 graders also equipped with snow gear. 111 bridges maintained. In Wolf Creek we are finished the surfacing on the Dam Rd, a tune up on the Ox Bow rd. In Lincoln there is a dig on Stemple Pass to channel water off the road. Dalton Mtn Bridge replacement project. District 6 is being evaluated, there is a need to get to school earlier and put 2 people on it.

Board Reports:

Augusta Area: Mike Cobb – Questions for the board – Great Falls conference agenda looks fantastic. How to get the private sector to the meeting? Great topics for private owners. Importance of educating the private sector. Suggestion: Weed Board meeting in Augusta and Lincoln.

Canyon Creek Area: Steve Johns – Nothing to report.

Central Valley Area: Joel Redding – Nothing important.

East Area: Dave Lewis – Subdivision, subdivision, subdivision. Looking at developing subdivisions in the North Hills area that didn't burn last year.

Lincoln Area: Mike Nordahl – Not present.

Helena/South Area: Orville Johnson – Pretty quiet.

West Area: Judith Anne Vincent – Not present.

Wolf Creek Area: Rob McDonough – Lot of snow lately. Great Falls set a record for the most snow in a calendar year ever. Choteau also has record snow.

<u>Announcements:</u> <u>Next Board Meeting</u> – February 5, – 1pm Weed Conference Room
--

<u>Lewis and Clark Conservation District meeting, February 13, 2020 1-3:30 PM USDA Service Center</u>
--

<u>Agri Forum</u> – February 11, 2020 - Jorgenson's 6:00 pm No Host Social, 7:00 pm Dinner.
--

<u>Adjournment:</u> 2:45 pm
